

**December 11, 2009**

**WASHINGTON, DC** - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri announced that he has secured \$250,000 for the Charles T. Sitrin Health Care Center (Sitrin) to continue the current expansion project, which will advance long term care opportunities for local seniors and save taxpayer dollars.

"The advances in long term, rehabilitative care being made at Sitrin are truly remarkable," **Arcuri said.**

"This funding is an important piece in the process of Sitrin's growth and development, and will enable Sitrin to continue its tradition of high-quality health care."

"We were honored to receive this funding from Congressman Arcuri, which demonstrates his support for greater living options and health care delivery for our community," **said Richard A. Wilson, Chief Executive Officer at Sitrin.**

"Congressman Arcuri has been actively involved in Sitrin's current and future expansions, and shares its mission for providing innovative programs and services to meet our community's ever-changing health care needs."

This funding will be used for Sitrin's expansion project, which is currently underway and encompasses three major components: construction of nine residential-style homes for persons needing long-term care, renovation of two nursing home wings to include private rooms for post-acute rehabilitation patients, and the construction of Cedarbrook assisted living apartments.

The Sitrin expansion project aims to advance long-term care reform in New York State and save money. The average nursing home rate in the Utica area is \$275 per person, per day; the average assisted living program rate is \$70 per person, per day. Converting Sitrin's long-term care beds to assisted living would amount to more than \$1.2 million in projected annual savings to the Medicaid program.

The funding secured by Arcuri for Sitrin is included in the Fiscal Year 2010 Omnibus

Appropriations Act, which passed the House of Representatives yesterday by a vote of 221-202. The measure now goes to the Senate for approval.

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